

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper



HEALTH WORKERS: A SPECIAL CASE

As the Government and the popular press scream patriotically about the need to fight the fascist dictators of Argentina, everyone seems to have forgotten about another group of people whose job it is to protect our lives - who have been fighting against the dictatorial attitude of the Tory junta.

As living standards have steadfastly been eroded, nurses and other hospital staff have been forced to accept lower and lower pay settlements. This year the Government said they would only allow health service workers a 6% pay increase (half the inflation rate). But as 2% of that has to come out of local Health District budgets, that means in reality only a 4% increase.

Health service workers have always been reluctant to take industrial action over pay claims, but as the Government constantly refuses to give them a decent wage, they have been forced to hold a series of one-day strikes.

Last month NUPE held a one day strike in several hospitals across the country and other health service workers staged work to rules and other forms of industrial

action. The action was agreed with hospital management, who are sympathetic to the workers' demands for a bigger increase in pay. Emergency cover was provided. In fact, in the Bethnal Green Hospital at least, emergency cover during the strike was even better than it is normally.

A nurse at the Bethnal Green Hospital, Myrna Shaw, said that in one ward nurses agreed to provide 5 nurses in case of emergencies. On the previous Sunday there had only been one. "That just highlights the poor staffing levels in the hospital", she said.

**12%
FOR
ALL
NHS
STAFF**

She said that NUPE members had wholeheartedly rejected the Government's 4% offer and agreed to take industrial action, although the safety of the patients would always be guaranteed.

"People say we harm the patients by taking industrial action", she said. "We say it's the Government's policies which harm the patients and it is the unions which are trying to fight the Government's cuts."

She pointed out that the Government has refused to go into arbitration with the hospital unions and has also refused to consider index-linking health workers' pay. Even the local District Health Authority has agreed that there should be some guarantee that levels of pay be safeguarded.

Myrna Shaw pointed out that the basic pay for a cleaner is £59 a week and the work can be very dirty. "And", she added, "with 4 million unemployed the Government can afford to pay as little as possible."

Geoff Craig, branch secretary for NUPE at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, claimed that support for a one day strike on 4 June would be solid. He said that emergency cover would be provided.

Asked whether he thought the strikes would make the Government change their minds, he said: "I would hope it would have some effect. But what we need is public support". He added though, that when the public are not directly concerned with the problem affecting hospital workers, they don't seem to care.

Unfortunately, people seem too concerned about killing rather than living.

INSIDE... ELECTION RESULTS SPECIAL

Analysis of the new Council

- Interview with Hackney's new leader, Anthony Kendall..

pages 2-3.

BUSES BLITZ

The cuts in bus services which will come into effect from 31st July as a result of the Law Lords overturning of the GLC cheap fares policy have now been published. Their effect on Hackney is disastrous.

Analysis of the cuts shows that although services at peak hours have not suffered much, other times have been hit hard. Worst affected are the evenings. Saturdays and between peak hours have not suffered quite so much.

Some services have their worst cuts in the evenings and early on Saturday mornings - times when many people will be travelling to or from work. The following have been cut to a twenty minute service only:

Evenings - 76, 106, 243, 277

Saturday mornings - 22, 76, 243, 277

Most drastic cuts were in the 253 service on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Buses in the Leaside area will be worst affected. This may indicate a policy of cutting outer London services more severely than those running into the West End. It is noticeable that West End buses do not seem to have been hit so hard in the evenings as those in other areas, particularly on Saturdays.

In an area as dependent on buses as Hackney is, such cuts are a disaster. Even if a twenty minute service can be maintained, it is a long wait if you have just missed

a bus. With the inevitable cancellations from staff shortages or bus breakdowns, traffic hold-ups and all the other misfortunes that public transport is heir to, passengers could easily be stuck at bus stops for forty minutes or more. Only to find, of course, when a bus does eventually turn up, that it is full.

Fare Fight

Fare Fight's campaign continues, its actions made even more urgent by the imminent cuts. The campaign is currently writing to ward Labour Parties, tenants' associations and councillors appealing for support and suggesting that Fare Fight visit one of their meetings to talk about the local cuts and what action could be taken. Other moves are being planned and discussed at the moment.

Passengers down

Since fares doubled in March, the number of passengers using LT has dropped significantly. On the tubes the figure is 11%, on the buses the figure is 17%. This is rather less than the 21% expected by LT, but still 8% down on the number using LT last year before the fares were cut. If the number continues to decline at the same rate, it seems highly unlikely that LT will be running at the profit level required by the Law Lords or able to provide the kind of service it should for the people of London.





MARATHON MAN: Anthony Kendall running in the London Marathon for Jubilee School. Pic: Tony Macklin.

RUNNING

The first week of May was a busy time for councillor Anthony Kendall. On the Thursday he was involved in the local elections, on the Saturday he was elected leader of the Council and on the Sunday he ran in the London Marathon. To find out just how the new leader is going to face the task of running the Council, our HPP reporter donned his track suit and jogged on down to the Town Hall.

HPP: What does it feel like to be leader of Hackney Council?

Anthony Kendall: Well, very daunting in many ways. I have very strong views about how I want to run it in terms of it being a shared exercise with all the Labour members and developing a team of people who are going to be running the Council on a more active basis. It also ought to be a shared exercise with the com-

munity too, we're very committed to the whole decentralisation bit. But nonetheless, just the way things are structured and always have been structured means that people look to you immediately and actually it's quite daunting.

What do you see as the major differences between what the new Council will do as opposed to the previous one?

I think there were some real achievements at the last Council and things were beginning to go the right way. I think they were making some important statements. Now, the challenge in front of us is to translate those statements into action. In some areas it's quite easy to make those statements - it's easy to make statements about nuclear-free zones and

LEFT ON PLATFORM

The recent borough elections changed the political hue of Hackney Council in more ways than one. On the one hand the formidable opposition of the two 'lone rangers' - Tory Joe Lobenstein and Liberal Jeff Roberts - has been 'swelled' by the election of six more liberals and two more true-blue Tories.

But at the other end of the political spectrum the Labour camp has supposedly turned a deeper shade of pink; and with the introduction of 22 new Labour councillors, the reins of power at the Town Hall have been torn from the Old Guard of Kotz & Co. and placed firmly in the hands of the left wing.

Just how radical the new Council will be depends on the relationship between the dominant broad left group of councillors and the more left-wing councillors. Both are, however, committed to pushing through the main plank of their election manifesto, the decentralisation of council services. And for many councillors the credibility of the Labour left in Hackney hangs on the success or failure of this process of democratisation.

The major test of the Council's commitment to greater democracy will be the decentralisation of housing services. This task will be even greater now that the Borough owns the large majority of properties in Hackney, much of which is in urgent need of repair.

One of the unsuccessful candidates for the chair of the Housing Committee, Maureen Colquhoun, told HPP that it is important to hand over the running of estates to the tenants themselves. "People are very dispirited. I really feel this is Labour's last throw", she said.

Another sweep in the Council's plans for greater democracy is the suggestion that local labour parties

Three weeks that shook Hackney.

By the time the polls closed on the day of the local elections it was quite clear that changes were going to be made. The Labour Party had already resigned itself to losing a large number of seats to the Liberals in Shoreditch, but were quite confident that they had fought off the SDP in the rest of the borough. And enough head-counting had gone on to ensure that Anthony Kendall knew already that he would be the next leader of the Council.

Any differences inside the Labour Party were well submerged, however, at the count and declaration as all got together to cheer their candidates home. Labour faces were gloomy around the Hackney South tables as the degree of the Liberal success became apparent. One Labour candidate, Ron Heisler, did not even bother to turn up for the count. The day after his defeat, however, he was seen trying to get into a Left caucus meeting, presumably under the impression that his conspiratorial gifts were still needed.

The smart-suited SDPs become involved in the yearly elections for leader of the Council.

Initial support for the present leader appears to be high among Labour's ranks, although it is rumoured that this support is not exactly solid on the left. Councillor Patrick Kodikara expressed this view: "I think Tony Kendall is committed to putting forward Labour's policies, particularly decentralisation. But certainly people on the left have expressed criticism of his position".

It has also been suggested that this 'clean sweep' of 'broad left' and more left-wing politicians will make sure that the new committee chairs cannot count on a quiet four years in office. More will be revealed when the dust has settled.

looked more and more white-faced as the results came in. They did a lot better than any other third party had done in any recent Council election in the wards that they fought, but they still didn't manage to pick up a seat. Throughout, their campaign had been a mixture of smear, innuendo and complete amateurism. Outside Shoreditch, the Liberals did even worse.

SPRINGFIELD

The hiccup in Springfield where the Tories managed to clean up all three seats can be put down to a number of factors. Initially there was a considerable quantity of verbal scuffling between some Labour supporters and Communist candidate Monty Goldman, whose 143 votes was less than the difference between the bottom Tory and the top Labour candidate. The real reason is more complicated than that. First, the Tories put more effort into this ward than in the other 22 together. Then, the local ward Labour Party was in disarray - with many people not wanting to work for, or even vote for, a slate that contained a diehard member of the Old Guard, Les Layward. Also, there had been a big rumpus over the Sports Ground affair, when local people felt aggrieved that their views had not been taken into account when the decision to let the Springfield Sports Ground go to a private rugby club was made. Finally, there was a distinct racist vote against Labour, with their Asian candidate Mohammed Iqbal, coming easily bottom of the slate.

The results were bad for Labour. Halfway through the Thatcherist junta's term a borough like Hackney was seeing Tory gains. More significant was the Liberal triumph in Shoreditch. The Labour vote in three wards collapsed completely - and

if just 50 Tories in De Beauvoir had voted tactically for the Liberals, then they would have got their entire "team" of nine in. The lesson that Labour must now learn is that it cannot neglect an area like Shoreditch, which it has done for decades, and depend on it to return Labour councillors every election. Just how radical the Liberal alternative really is will be examined in a future issue of HPP.

After the elections were completed, it was time for the political speeches. Johnny Kotz gave his, knowing full well that it would be his last as leader. Jeff Roberts was his usual undynamic self and Joe Lobenstein, who has been easily the funniest speaker on the Council for the last four years, made the best jokes. "I make it a rule," he said, "when beginning a speech at 2.30 in the morning, never to go for more than half an hour." After a few words from David Green, on behalf of the 14 defeated Communists,

there had been a slight change in a few hearts.

The next two weeks were taken up with a complete reorganisation of the Council committees. This has had major repercussions, such as the merging of Finance into a new Policy and Resources committee, merging the two Housing committees and establishing a Police Committee.

What is now known as the "Soft" or "Soggy" Left is firmly in control of most of the chairs (as indeed they are of the Council as a whole). One concession has been left to the Old Guard, in that Johnny Kotz is to chair the Economic Development and Employment Committee.

The final act of Hackney's three weeks of change came with the full Council meeting on Wednesday 26 May. Packed opposition benches (with the Liberals inexplicably sitting behind the Tories), many new young faces, Sam Springer promising to be a "political" mayor. Things had changed - or had they? We had a speech full of waffle from Bob Masters, and plenty of barbed

CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF THE NEW COMMITTEES.

Policy and Resources: C: Anthony Kendall. VC: Peter Kahn.
Community Development: C: Brian Weller. VC: Andrew Puddephat.
Economic Development and Employment: C: John Kotz. VC: Richard Taylor.
Health and Consumer Rights: C: Howard Pallis. VC: Clancy Etienne.
Housing Services: C: Charles Clarke. VC: Ken Hanson.
Leisure Services: C: John McCafferty. VC: Mervyn Jones.
Planning and Transport: C: Richard Gee. VC: Martin Whitfield.
Police: C: Brynley Heaven. VC: John Bloom.
Public Services: C: Peter Kahn. VC: Chris Baxter.
Social Services: C: Patrick Kodikara. VC: Anne Cameron.
Staffing and Equal Opportunities: C: Jim Cannon. VC: Denise Robson.

everyone who knew the words sang the Red Flag.

Two days later came Kendall's big day. In the end he was the comfortable winner in the secret ballot, by 30 votes to 18. Two Labour councillors didn't vote: one was David Clarke, who was late. The other was Abraham Pinter, who doesn't attend on the Sabbath. Kotz, however got two more votes than everyone had predicted, so

references to the vintage intake of 1953 from Johnny Kotz and Martin Ottolangui. Kendall's speech as leader was long and worthy, promising local socialism and democracy. Then it was all over. And the Red Flag? Nobody sang - there had been a vote in Labour group before, and it had been decided not to go over the top. This year, next year, sometime...

TO CHANGE

HPP Interviews Hackney's New No.1

stuff like that - which are important statements nonetheless - but I think the problem with the last Council was that it has been bureaucratic and lacking any sensitivity to local people. And that's what we've got to change, because it seems to me that in the fight to defend local government and the fight to defeat the Right, you've actually got to get the people united with us. And they'll only be united with us when we give them a better service and a service they feel more involved in. That seems to me to be the test - it's not only a test for us, it's a test for the left as a whole.

The major plank of Hackney Labour Party's manifesto is the commitment to make the Council

Decentralisation isn't going to happen overnight

more democratic by decentralising services. How will this improve services?

There are two things about decentralisation - decentralisation could be just a service where we decide to have 25 local offices rather than 6 or whatever, and it could be just as bad or remote as ever. But one has to look at decentralisation in terms of people being involved in it and being able to shape it and actually run it.

One criticism about Labour's decentralisation plans has come from the Communist Party, who claim that although they are a step towards democratising the Council, they would still make the Council too bureaucratic.

It could be. The Council could end up just as bureaucratic and remote. We have to develop a structure that people can relate to without feeling it's totally dominating their lives but also breaking down the bureaucracy of the Town Hall. I think the Communist Party are pointing out something that is a real problem in front of us and we've got to watch out. Decentralisation isn't going to happen overnight. I really think it's going to take a year for us to achieve it and there's got to be a lot of debate and discussion, not just in here but with other organisations.

Housing is one of the major political issues in Hackney. What specific changes is decentralisation going to make?

It is the major issue - two out of three people in Hackney will now be living in Hackney Borough Council houses and

that means we've got a major challenge. I think we have got to experiment and find new ways of letting tenants get involved in running their own estates. I think the examples on Stonebridge and Lea View are ones that we have to continue in the way we redevelop estates, and we have got to get in a position where we actually spend the money that we've been allocated.

The problem of housing in Hackney is two-fold: it's about quality of housing and quality of management. We've got to deal with the quality of housing. The quality of management is one about a sensitive, more decentralised management, but also about tenants' control, tenants' involvement in the running of their estates. I'm avoiding coming up with a blueprint because we've got to discuss plans with the Tenants' Federation and the individual tenants' associations, but all of us ...yes, all of us are really committed to dealing with the housing issue.

What about co-opting tenants' representatives onto the Housing Committee?

The first thing is that we won't co-opt members. We will state the numbers that will be co-opted onto the Housing Committee and it will be up to the tenants to decide how they elect their representatives. The next stage, which is equally important, is developing some mechanism which actually breaks down the Housing Committee into local areas and involves more tenants at that level with real discussion in those areas. I do see a need - and this is me speaking personally - that one has a Housing Committee, area boards and

One of the major tests in front of us is race

then one has to have a mechanism at a much more local level with the tenants' associations themselves. So you have three levels of debate and discussion.

Is it true that the election of councillors to the various committees has also been changed?

Well, there used to be a selection committee that went away and worked out who should be chair of which committee and then the Labour Group made decisions about whether they ratified that. This time we've cut out the selection procedure and we're having direct elections at

Labour Group.

Apart from housing, the problem of racism is also a major political issue in Hackney. How are you going to deal with this problem?

I think there are specific things that are vitally important for us as a Council to confront and one of the major tests in front of us is race. This is a borough where at least 30% of its population is black, but that isn't mirrored by the number of people employed by the borough itself who are black and it's not sometimes mirrored in the way we provide our services.

There have been criticisms of indirect racism among, for example, housing officers who seem unsympathetic to black families suffering racial harassment. How would you change these attitudes?

I think on racial harassment on estates, we've actually made a bit of progress and we are trying to define policies on it. I think central to this is actually changing the feeling within those departments and that feeling can only begin to change when you recruit more black people into them.

We will be actually looking at co-option onto main committees of people from ethnic groups, we're committed to having a race relations sub-committee and hopefully some sort of ethnic forum will go ahead.

Do you see any conflict in the near future with the government on spending?

We've got to get into a position of over spending. I think if we have the confrontation on our terms in that three-quarters through the year we've spent all the money allocated to us and actually fight them over a particular scheme, then we'd be in a much stronger position than we are at the moment where we've actually underpent.

What level of support do you think there is among the electors for these changes in policy?

I think there are two things really. I think there is, firstly, an enormous amount of basic loyalty to the labour movement but, secondly, there is an enormous amount of frustration and anger at the way some services are delivered. I think on that basis there is a climate in which one could have some major changes.

Are you not worried that 8 seats were lost to the Tories and Liberals?

I don't see it as a setback to this Council. I think this Council can operate quite easily with the majority it's

got. I do see it as a setback to the Labour Party. I think the Labour Party has got to learn the lessons in the places where they lost the seats and get more active and involved at a local level and not accept the traditional loyalty to the labour movement in that area.

How powerful is the left wing on the Council?

It's very difficult to define. I think there is a very large majority of people in Labour Group who want change. Some of those are of the left and some of those are of the centre, but there is unity within that broad group for some major changes. I think it's worth underlining that the new Labour Group will be independent, and by independent I don't mean it won't be left. I don't think there is any particular group of people who can count on a solid majority on Labour Group. So whether you're leader or a chair of a committee or whatever, that isn't a position you're going to hold forever. I think people are going to make up their minds in a much more independent way.

How would you answer the criticisms of entryism into the Labour Party of middle

class 'trendies'?

I think it's a valid problem. I've been a member of the Labour Party since 1964 so I don't feel as though I'm just entering into the Party. But I think it is a problem of the Labour Party that the traditional working class person is not joining the Labour Party and not getting involved. I think we need to be aware of it and try to deal with it - but not in a patronising way.

One of the criticisms of many people in the Labour Party is that we are too insular within the Labour Party and its bureaucracy. It's a separate issue from the one of class, but still an important one and something we have to be aware of.

Ten years ago you were involved in setting up Centerprise and now you are leader of Hackney Council. Do you think your politics have changed?

I think my politics when I started at Centerprise were fairly loose and open in many ways and some of the things I believe in now developed in that process of being involved in Centerprise and working with community and tenants' groups in Hackney. Nobody really believes they've changed much...I hope I haven't.



DEFIANT: But still a long way to go.

Pic: Tony Macklin.

Small is beautiful

Review:
"GOING LOCAL": a videotape produced by Hackney Community Action.

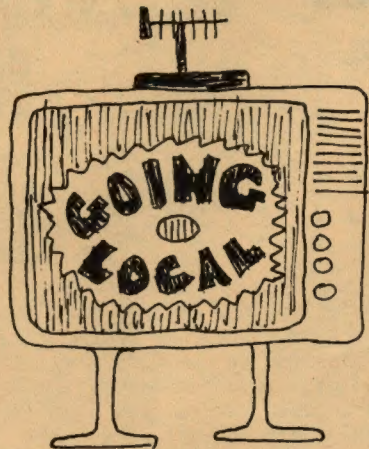
Decentralisation is a topic that has recently been much talked about with most of the local parties promising some form of more localised service in their election manifestoes. This was particularly evident in the Labour Party's proposals; now that they have been elected yet again we need to make sure that they implement their plans in a way that is of most benefit to people in the local communities. But how many of us really know what is meant by "decentralisation", how it might operate and how we might benefit, etc.?

The "Going Local" video Produced by Hackney Community Action is therefore a timely and welcome contribution to the Decentralisation debate. It does not set out to provide definitive answers, but rather to present possibilities and stimulate thought and discussion amongst the viewers.

PROBLEMS

Those who made the videotape are local people, including some members of the Hoxton Drama Group, rather than professionals. This helps the viewer to feel that the problems faced by the participants in their relations with the Council are also THEIR problems. The opening sequence, where a woman who goes to the Town Hall in Mare Street to complain about rubbish in the streets, sets the tone. She is brought face-to-face with the inhuman council bureaucracy, being sent from one department to another (usually at the other end of the Borough). The Council's functioning and efficiency is demonstrated, somewhat stereotyped perhaps - but it's unlikely that many would rush to the Council's defence here!

This picture is then contrasted with the example of Walsall in the West Midlands where local offices have been set up. People are shown enquiring about rent rebates, servicing of appli-



ances, etc. in the same friendly office. Walsall is not presented as what a decentralised office would be like - there is much more that people might like to see happening - but rather as proof that things need not be as they are in Hackney and many other areas. Services don't HAVE to be organised in separate departments with remote and disinterested officials. The point of contact between the individual and the Council departments CAN be more local and human. It should be up to the community to decide what it requires, then persuade the Council to change accordingly.

The 'tape also shows the progress of a group of local people who want to convert a building for use as a community centre, as well as the views of councillors, etc. on decentralisation. Several minor criticisms, mainly of a technical nature, can be made. For instance, the lighting is occasionally erratic and captions to introduce some of the scenes would have been helpful. But these are minor points; in general the 'tape could prove a valuable introduction for any local groups wishing to have a discussion on decentralisation.

Hire of "Going Local" is free to those groups affiliated to Hackney Community Action. For others, there is a £5 charge (+ carriage). Contact Hackney Community Action on 729 5536 for further details.

RADIO CON

Review:
"LOCAL RADIO IN LONDON" by Local Radio Workshop.

London's local independent radio stations have been accused of executing "a confidence trick" on Londoners. They are said to offer "cheap format programming" in exchange for the £20 million in advertising revenue that they collect each year. In a recently published report on the state of local radio, BBC Radio London, the poor relation, is accused of simply tagging on behind and mimicking the others to try and survive BBC cutbacks.

The report, by the Local Radio Workshop, also accuses all three stations of failing to get to grips with London issues as was promised when they opened. Its findings conclude that they simply offer the listener what can be produced cheaply - 'local news' from the courts, police and fire brigade and studio discussions with 'experts' instead of properly researched programmes.

The programmes analysed were broadcast by LBC, Capital Radio and BBC Radio London between 23 April and 3 May last year and the report contains special contributions from organisations such as the Black Women's Radio Group, NUPE, the London Business School, ANC and SWAPO.

A total of 300 hours of programmes broadcast by the three stations were recorded and divided into specific areas, including music, news and phone-ins. Each section was then analysed using the tapes and synopses of the programmes' content.

Comments on the coverage were sought from groups with direct experience of particular topics in the news that week. This included the run-up to the GLC elections, the civil servants pay dispute and the Maze prisoners hunger strike. The London Business School was asked to comment in particular on LBC's City and economic news coverage.

The report is being submitted to the Home Office Local Radio Working Party, the IBA, which is readvertising the LBC franchise, the BBC and all the trade unions involved in broadcasting.

GAYS IN LONDON

Review:
"BUILDING THE LONDON GAY COMMUNITY" by the Gay Workshops Collective.

A new report from the London Gay Workshops Collective has called for immediate local and national funding to meet the needs of London's homosexual population. The report is a result; of a series of four discussion workshops and a conference arranged to establish the social, employment and housing problems faced by lesbians and gay men in London.

The report is called "Building the London Gay Community" and advocates different provisions to meet the very different needs of lesbians, lesbian mothers, older, younger, black, handicapped, working class and transsexual gays, and paedophiles and bisexuals. The report stresses that these differences must be taken into account, rather than glossed over, if a truly supportive gay community is to be created. Funding is needed for all of these groups, and for the setting up of neighbourhood gay centres to make gay people more visible in the areas in which they live and work. These centres would enormously improve the quality of life for many gay people, provide social and organisational needs and be a point of



contact between the gay community and the rest of society.

The report stresses the need for Trade Unions to adopt policies in support of gay workers by pressing for non-discrimination policies from employers. It also calls for a change in the policy of local housing departments to make provision for gay people wanting to live singly or communally and calls for special hostel provision for young gay people who have been thrown out of or who have left the parental home because of conflict over their sexuality.

"Building the London Gay Community" costs 75p from London Gay Workshops, 5 Caledonian Road, N.1. or from local bookshops. East London Gay Liberation Front, who helped in its compilation, can be contacted on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, at The Whole Thing, 53 West Ham Lane, E15.

ADVERTISEMENT

JAZZ
Sir George Robey
240 SEVEN SISTERS ROAD N4
opposite the Rainbow

SUNDAY LUNCHTIMES 12-2pm

50p entrance.

BRIGHT MOMENTS

Latin - Jazz - Funk

featuring Martin Spence - Alto

Terry Disley - Piano

John Paricelli - Guitar

Tim Harries - Bass

Mark Doffman - Drums

TUESDAY EVENINGS 8pm

£1.00 entrance.

MARTIN SPEAKE QUARTET

with Simon Purcell - Piano

Mick Hutton - Bass

Mark Doffman - Drums

Inside the law

Review:
"DEFENDANT'S HANDBOOK" and "HIDDEN VOICES" by Second Chance and East London Women Against Prison.

The Defendants Handbook does not claim to be a complete guide for defendants but to cover some of the most important areas. Law, it says, is too important in our lives to leave just to lawyers. The first few chapters give advice on what to do if charged with an offence, one's right to a "MacKenzie Lawyer" (a friend who sits in the dock with you as a legal adviser), on defending yourself (and dealing with police prejudice or corruption), and getting bail. There is material on the

technicalities of committals, "verbals" and identification parades. If you still get sent down: "It's a defeat - but it's not the end." The last chapter gives hints to guide you through the pitfalls of resistance inside. Even if you don't think you'll need this book, it's still worth reading for its robust style.

PRISON POEMS

In a quieter vein, Second Chance and ELWAP have put together an anthology of the poems they receive from prisoners throughout the country. A prison cell is no inspiration: "white tiles, concrete cold floor, dim bulb,

chill, smell, stale cleanness of disinfectant, pan in the corner", so it's not a surprise that many prison poets write of life outside; or inside their own heads. Poetry, Second Chance say in the preface, is one of the few ways that prisoners can tell people how they feel, how prison affects them and what they dream of. They would like to hear from any prisoners who have poetry or other writing they want would like published. Defendants Handbook is 50p and Hidden Voices (prison poems) is 60p from Second Chance and East London Women Against Prison 56 Dames Road, Forest Gate, London E7.

WHAT'S ON

Music

CHAT'S PALACE

- See under separate heading

CROWN AND CASTLE

600 Kingsland High Rd, E8
254 3678

Downstairs bar : live folk music most nights - free.
Upstairs bar: Doors open at 9pm. Show starts at 10pm.
Entrance - Fridays: £1.50, UB40's £1. Saturdays: £2, UB40's £1.30.

Friday, June 4: Mr Spratt's 21st Century Popular Motets, close harmony up-tempo unaccompanied songs and ounds. Plus Silly Boy Lemon Jazz Trio.

Saturday, June 5: Mr Spratt's 21st Century Popular Motets + Brian Caswell (comic) and Andy Cunningham - the only man in the world with 3 heads and a mind reading rat.

Friday, June 11: John Hegley - tuneless, modern vaudeville poet performing with Silly Boy Lemon Jazz Trio

Saturday, June 12: Maggie Fox and Helen Lederer; Simon Fanshawe (comic) and Tolly Gunge - visual, verbal, musical madness from Brighton.

Friday, June 18: Silly Boy Lemon Jazz Trio + support (see City Limits/Time Out for details).

Saturday, June 19: Pauline M Melville, Benjamin Zephaniah - reggae poet, and John Hegley with Silly Boy Lemon.

Friday June 25: Silly Boy Lemon Jazz Trio plus support (see City Limits/Time Out for full details)

Saturday, June 26: Unconfirmed See press for details at time

HACKNEY MUSICIANS' COLLECTIVE

Live gigs every Thursday evening 8-11pm at the Sir George Robey (opposite the Rainbow), Finsbury Park.

3 June Section 10 plus support.
10 June The Cab Drivers.
17 June Walking Wounded plus Parkdown Jets.
24 June Left-Hand Sugar plus support.

Other bands at the Sir George Robey 8.30. Some bands free, for the rest 50p or £1 entrance.

Tues 1: PALS
Wed 2: PALOKAS
Fri 4: First Offence
Sat 5: Fleas and support
Mon 7: MXYZPLK + support
Tues 8: Rud
Wed 9: PALOKAS
Fri 11: Primary + Thoughts Column
Sat 12: Tony and Cab Drivers
Tues 15: INP
Wed 16: Deltas
Fri 18: Two bands TBA
Sat 19: Fleas
Sun 20: Disco
Tues 22: Windy +support
Wed 23: XAK 475
Fri 25: First Offence
Sat 26: Terry Coboeries
Sun 27: Dave Page
Wed 30: Deltas

plus Sunday lunchtime jazz with Martin Speake's Jazz Band.

FOX'S WINE BAR

Stoke Newington Church St, N16
254 2709

Fri 4 In Here (piano, sax & vocals)
Sat 5 Misty Sisters. Cole Porter, Noel Coward vocals.
Every Sunday Jan Ponsford & Alistair Gavin (jazz vocals and piano)
Fri 11 Louis O'Neill (electric piano and vocals)
Sat 12 Zizi & the Metro. French horn and accordion.
Fri 18 Terry Disley & Jo Mydell. Piano & jazz vocals.
Sat 19 Dick Phelps & Rad
Sergt. Jazz guitar and sax.
Fri 25 Dick Phelps & Rad
Sergt.
Sat 26 Phone for details.

THE PEGASUS

109 Green Lanes, N16
254 5930
All bands start at 9pm.

Every Monday - Wilma Williams and The Combo - 30's jazz. £1
Tues 1,8,15 Macrame Brothers, £1.
Tues 22,29 20th Century Blues - Jazz. £1.

Every Wednesday - Big J. Moique - D (New Orleans R & B) £1.25.
Thurs 3 The G.B. Blues Company with Roots Jackson. £1.50
Thurs 10 The Morrissey-Mullen Band £2.50
Thurs 17, 24 The Hank Wangford Band. £2
Every Friday Juice on the Loose. £1.50
Every Saturday Big Chief £1.50
Sun 6, 13 Republic. £1.25
Sun 20, 27 Ivory Coasters. £1.30

PEMBURY ARMS

90 Amhurst Rd, E8
985 5288
Phone for details.

chats palace

42-44 Brooksby's Walk, E9
986 6714

Unless otherwise stated, events begin at 8pm and cost £2 (concessions £1)

Thurs 3: Hackney CND present Art Against the Nuclear Apocalypse - an audio-visual presentation of the work of TAD, a painter. Also Elaine Lawrence of Greenpeace.
Fri 4: Hackney Federation of Tenants AGM. 7.30
Sat 5: Major-cum-Hardy's Majestic Music Hall
Sun 6: Lunchtime jazz with Graham Reed's Futuristic Rhythms. £1. Kids free.
Thurs 10: Chat's Palace Community Centre or community arts centre? Debate. Free.
Fri 11, Sat 12: Rational Theatre Company in Chicken Tikka

Sun 13: Lunchtime jazz with Sunwind Music
Wed 16: Chat's Palace Club AGM 7.30
Thurs 17: Benefit for anti-apartheid movement with bands Design for Living and Family Rico. £1.50 (£1)
Fri 18: Music for Socialism benefit for Newton Rose defence fund (details to be announced)
Sat 19: Hackney Marsh Fun Festival tune-up with Chat's Arkestra, Julie Andrews look-alike contest and more.
Sun 20: Lunchtime jazz with the Capt Bewildered Quartet.

Thurs 24: Cabaret with the Flying Pickets, the Joeys and comedian Rob West.
Fri 25: What now? Hackney Youth Festival with displays, stalls, theatre, video, music by and for young people. Starts 12.00 noon.
Sat 26: Dave Bitelli's Onward Internationals with JAMA disco. Bar extension. £1.50 (£1)
Sun 27: Lunchtime jazz with Auto-da-Fe.

Cinema

ASTRA

119 Stoke Newington Rd N16
254 0046
Phone cinema for details

CENTERPRISE

136 Kingsland High St, E8.
The following films will be shown on:
Tue 15 June H-Bomb Over USA.

The impact of a ten megaton H-Bomb warhead supposedly dropping on Los Angeles.
Culloden The reconstruction by Peter 'War Game' Watkins of the battle of Culloden, using local people as actors. A film which carries a far greater message for peace than many anti-war programmes and movements.

KONAK

13/15 Stoke Newington Rd N16
254 2415
Phone cinema for details

RIO

107 Kingsland High St E8
254 6677
Until Sat 5 Star Wars. 1.30 & 6.30 and The Empire Strikes back. 3.45 and 8.15
Tickets £2, children £1, senior citizens 60p.
Details of films after this date not available at time of going to press.

GOING LOCAL: A Video-tape produced by Hackney Community Action (see review article on Page 5).
Thurs 3 Pitfield Street Library, N1 at 2pm.
Weds 9 Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16 at 7.30pm.

Theatre

HALF MOON

213 Mile End Road, E1.
790 4000

will be presenting WCPC by Nigel Williams - a play about police corruption. Performances start at 8pm, with a Saturday matinee at 5pm. Prices are £3 Tues-Thurs, £4 Fri and Sat. Students and Senior Citizens £2, Unemployed with card, free.

THEATRE ROYAL

Gerry Raffles Square, E15.
534 0310 Throughout June: A Star Is Torn. By Robyn Archer who links the lives and achievements of eleven female singers through their songs.
8pm. Tickets £1-£5. Concessions (£1 for the best seats Mons-Thurs) for students, claimants & senior citizens.
Sun 13 June: Kate Williams hosting a Royal Variety Cabaret with Barry Cryer, The Flying Pickets and Charles Augin's Dancers.
8pm. Tickets £1-£5.
Sun 27 June: Brian Protheroe In Concert. 8pm. £1-£5.

Other events

FOE EVENT

Islington and Hackney Friends of the Earth, in conjunction with the Hackney CND, are organising an open air event in Clissold Park on Sunday, 20 June.

The event, entitled SUNDAY, is aimed to promote the use of Alternative Technology and the need for energy conservation. It will also aim to illustrate the folly of both military and civil nuclear programmes.

There will be stalls and displays and in the evening a concert. Anyone wishing for further information should contact:

Richard Wilcock 980 9304
Roger Stevens 272 2360

LABOUR PARTY WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

Sat 5: Coach will leave Town Hall, Mare Street at 10am, dropping people off at County Hall who want to go on the march. It will then go on to Battersea Park where the festival is taking place, returning at 4.30pm to Hackney. Please book your seat in advance by phoning Lucy de Groot on 249 8086. Tickets cost 50p. Organised by the Women's sub-committee of the Trades Council with the support of the women's section of the Labour Party and local union branches. Support a Woman's right to work.

THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS:

is an account of the local publishing and writers' workshop movement. You are invited to a reading of poems, stories etc. to celebrate the publication of this book (Comedia press £2.95), Friday June 4 at Centerprise 136 Kingsland High St., E8 at 7.30pm.

Meetings

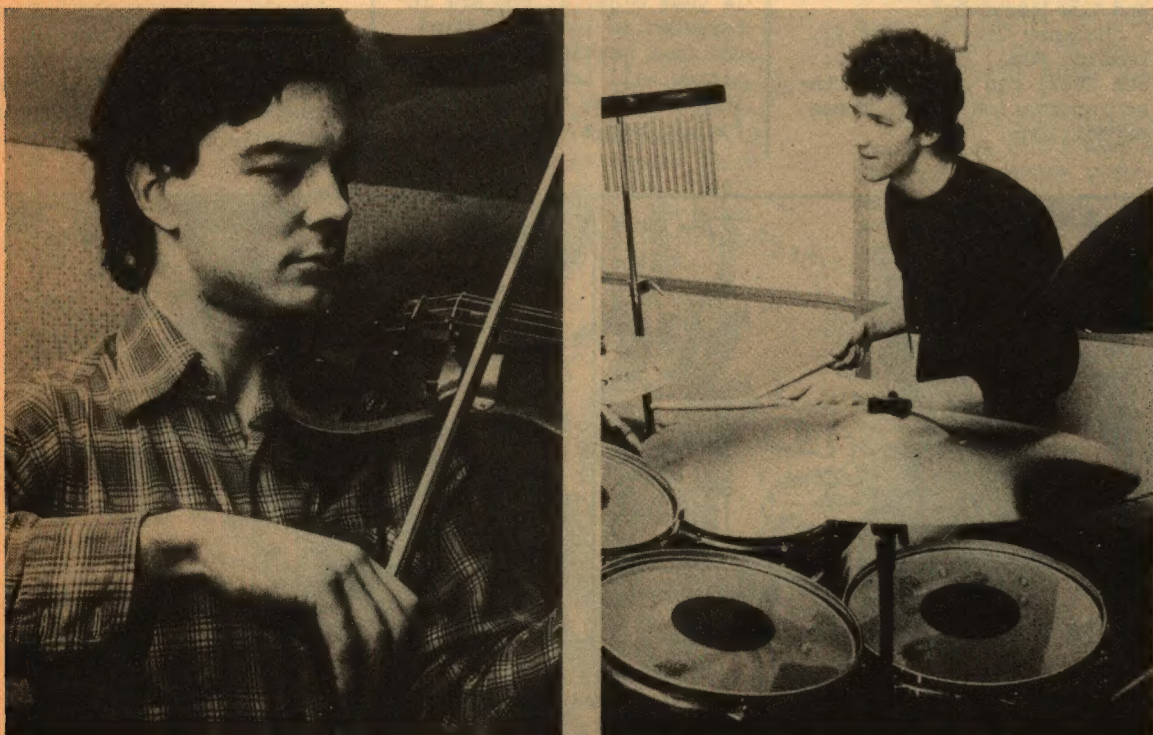
HACKNEY COUNCIL AND SOCIALISM: A meeting with Hackney Council's new leader Anthony Kendall and David Green, Hackney CP. Tues 15 June, 7.30pm. Hackney Cypriot Association, 5 Balls Pond Road, N1.

HACKNEY WOMENS CENTRE: Centreprise at 7.30pm (Women only)
June 2, 16, 30 and July 14.

HACKNEY ACTION FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE: June 10 at the Huddleston Centre. Also a social at the Huddleston Centre on June 12.

CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL: Annual General Meeting on Friday June 18 at 7.30 in Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. (NB change of date and time).

The What's On listings are free - so if we've missed you out, please let us know as soon as possible by writing to Hackney Peoples Press, 47a Grayling Rd, N16 before June 25



MEMBERS OF 20th CENTURY BLUES JAZZ BAND - at The Pegasus in June.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

The open editorial meeting for the next issue of HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS will be held at Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8 at 8pm on Tuesday 8 June. If you would like to help write or produce the next issue then please come along.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return, then please contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more involved, but you enjoy reading HPP and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

STACKS OF BOOKS AT HPP's BOOK SALE
SAT 3RD JULY
2PM: CENTREPRISE
IF YOU HAVE ANY BOOKS TO DONATE RING 806 9211 TO ARRANGE COLLECTION

- Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £2.80 for one year's subscription to Hackney People's Press, 47a Grayling Road, N16.
- Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS
- Name.....
- Address.....

Printed and published by Hackney People's Press, 47a Grayling Road, London N16; tel 809 2889 (daytime messages) and 806 9211 (evenings and weekends).

nursery gets new premises

The 136 Community Nursery was officially opened by the Mayor of Hackney on Wednesday 26 May, in its new premises in the old Metropolitan Hospital Nurses Home. This is the culmination of nearly seven years hard work.

For its first five years, the 136 Nursery existed in the damp and dark Centreprise basement, at 136 Kingsland High Street (which is how it got its name). Then when it moved to new premises, it took staff and parents 18 months of fundraising and hard slog to create a nursery out of a derelict building, a garden out of a wilderness, a kitchen out of an office and a toilet

out of something defying proper description. The airy and extensive playspace has been rewired, centrally heated, repaired and decorated by the Hackney Youth Workforce.

There are clouds on the horizon, however. "Our future is far from secure," a spokesperson told HPP. "Despite all kinds of verbal assurances from councillors and officers our short term licence is still in the borough solicitor's hands. We still have had no written guarantee to back up the verbal promises - and we know that our new landlords are thinking of 'other plans' for the building."

"But we're celebrating now, because as far as the kids and us are concerned, we're here to stay!"

Photo: Maggie Murray



NEWTON ROSE

On March 9 1982, after a vigorous campaign lasting almost three months, Newton Rose was freed. The Court of Appeal quashed his murder conviction and quashed the perjury convictions of his three friends, Michael Clarke, Orville Johnson and Ian Henry.

However, the prosecution in a vicious move appealed to the House of Lords against this decision of the Appeal Court. On June 14, the House of Lords will decide whether the Prosecution Appeal will be accepted. If they do, it could mean that Newton Rose would have to undergo another trial on the same charge. The normal position in British legal practice is that a person cannot be re-tried on the same charge if the conviction has been quashed. The Newton Rose Action Committee has called a meeting to publicise the campaign on Tuesday, June 1 at the United Reform Church Hall, Lordship Road, N16. They hope to build support for the coming House of Lords ruling on the re-trial and everyone is welcome to come along and find out how they can help in the campaign.

CITY FARMS COURSE

Now that summer has arrived (?), the "Understanding City Farms" course - organised by Hackney City Farm and run in conjunction with Hackney Adult Education Institute - continues with a number of outside visits.

On 5th. June, there will be a trip to Bealings Barn, a house which has been converted to solar heating. Arkley Manor Gardens will be visited on 9th. June. Arkley is run as an organic garden with a school providing training for working students. On 12th. June, there will be a visit to Vauxhall City Farm for a demonstration/discussion on Sheep Husbandry. Nearer home, on 16th. June, John Nash (of the Save the Marshes Group) will give a guided tour around Walthamstow Marshes. Finally, on 19th. June, a further trip to Vauxhall City Farm has been arranged to look at Pig and Cow Husbandry.

Hackney City Farm at 12, Leaside Road, E5. (phone: 806 5622) can provide further information on all these expeditions.

FINSBURY PARK CARNIVAL

Finsbury Park Carnival is scheduled to take place on August Bank Holiday Monday - following a procession from Clissold Park. This will be the fifth year that the Carnival has been run. Since it started, there has never been any violence or disorder of any kind.

The main purpose of the Carnival is to provide an opportunity for promoting harmonious community relations by having fun, food and fellowship - with art, drama, music and dancing for thousands of people who, for a variety of reasons, cannot be away for the day.

The Carnival's subsidiary aim is to aid a recognised and worthy charity. This year, it is HELP THE AGED who are celebrating their twenty-first birthday. At the Carnival, it is planned to entertain to tea over six hundred old age pensioners.

Individuals or groups who wish to take part in the procession and/or the Carnival are asked to contact the Secretary (Ken Auguste) at 150, Amhurst Road, E8 2AZ. tel: 254 9175. The organisers also need more people on their committee, especially to help with the running of the 'kiddies carnival' for 5 - 14 year olds. If you are interested in lending a hand, the next meeting of the committee will take place on 10th. June at 8 p.m. at the Family Centre, Rectory Road.

VIEWS ON CANCER

Marcus McCausland from the Association for New Approaches to Cancer spoke recently at a well attended meeting City and Hackney Community Health Council meeting. He explained the Association's view that cancer is caused by a failure of the body's natural defences for emotional and dietary reasons and as a response to stress. This process could be reversed so that in many cases it was possible to control or prevent a recurrence of cancer - through special diets and a radical change in life style and way of responding to things.

He did not claim that this therapy should replace orthodox medicine but could be used alongside it and greatly enhance its efficiency and minimise its side effects. His Association has a network of two hundred doctors, healers, counsellors, psychiatrists and nutritionists who were prepared to talk to people with cancer and work out what was best for them to activate this self-healing process.

Footnote:

Following the decision of the Community Health Council to hold this meeting, they received a strongly worded letter from the Chairman of the "new" District Health Authority. In it, he objected to the event taking place on National Health Service property as views were likely to be presented that were at odds with 'expert medical opinion'.

